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match program

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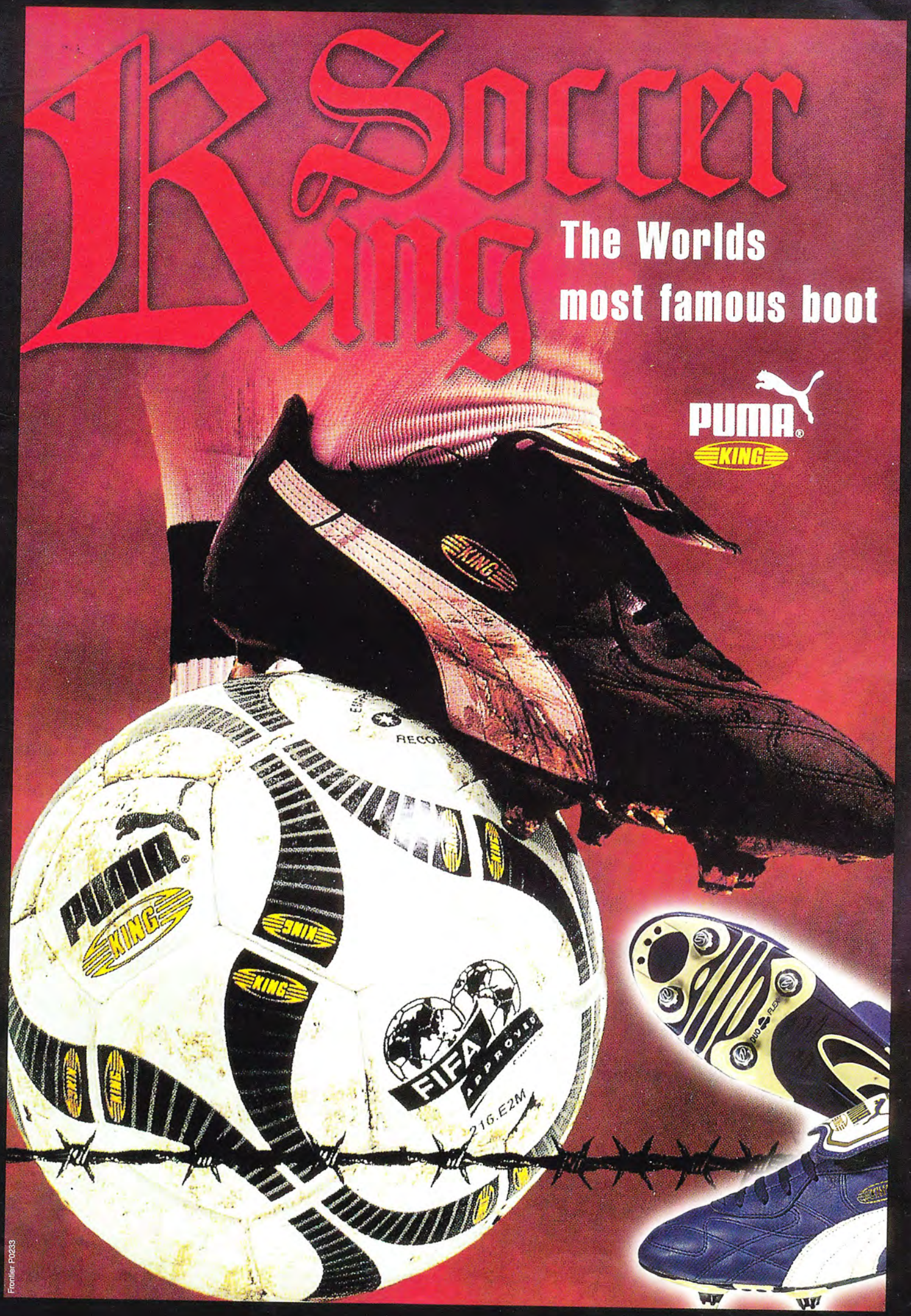

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CAPTAIN
Paul Trimboli

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Tradescene / Bauhaus Studio of Design
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our 40th year anniversary has arrived since the creation of our great club.

This day gives us an opportunity to not only reflect on our success over these four decades, but also recognise the heritage of the club and its future direction.

We often take for granted the enormous change and development which has taken place since the creation of our club.

Regardless of public perception and largely created due to media bias, the National League and in particular South Melbourne is achieving significant growth results, although the gap between the strong clubs and those weaker clubs is expanding.

We have for a considerable time now recognised that we must capture the enormous latent supporter bone, whilst penetrating new markets and in particular young children. Most of the strategy and therefore the activity behind the scenes has been focused on these objectives. We have been able to develop these markets and achieve our growth results in a planned manner and without compromising our existing supporters or discounting our heritage.

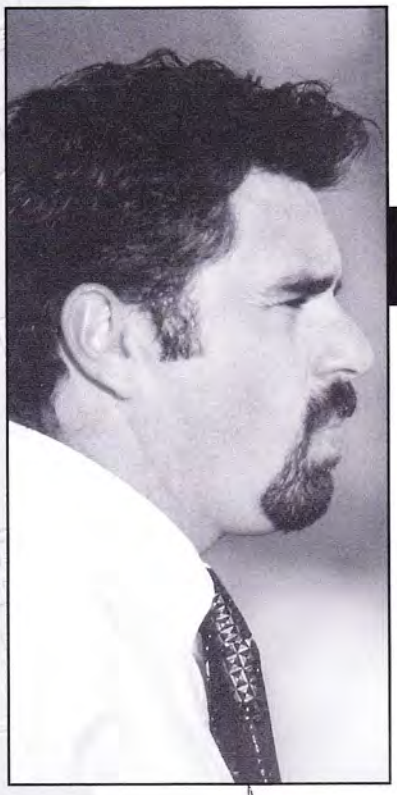
Some have labelled South Melbourne as a traditional or ethnic club. Those comments are ignorant rather than an informed judgement. The reality is that we are a founding member of the National competition who continues to be at the forefront of the game in this country.

It is therefore appropriate to thank all past and present supporters, players, coaches, sponsors, employees and volunteers who have either individually or collectively contributed our 40 year history. Individuals such as Marmaras, Papasavas, Armstrong, Dadalis, Blair, Postecoglou and Trimboli to name just a few, cannot be forgotten.

Over the last 40 years, families with up to four generations of individuals have supported the South Melbourne Soccer Club and it is a legacy and responsibility which we all take very seriously, so that the next four generations share the experience and involvement of the South Melbourne Soccer Club.

Yours sincerely
South Melbourne Soccer Club

George Vasilopoulos
President



COACH'S REPORT

ANGE POSTECOGLOU . . . Player, Captain and today, Coach

As someone who has spent almost his entire life at the club a day like today takes on special significance. For 40 years the club has been a vehicle for many dreams to be realized and many special moments experienced. I have my own treasured memories but today in more a celebration of the club as a whole rather than the individuals.

It has always strived for the best on the field and has demanded that all the people who represented it did so with pride. It's a special feeling when you first pull on the South Melbourne shirt. You think about all the great players who have worn it before and hope you can leave your own mark in the clubs history. There have been many great players and it's a testimony to the clubs standing that it has always been a club that all players want to join.

Today we celebrate what is probably the greatest soccer club in the country and it's more than appropriate that in its 40th year we are again challenging for the Championship.

Ange Postecoglou
Manager/Coach

Captain's Message
Paul Trimboli

Today's 40th year anniversary is just another milestone for a club that has continually led the way in our sport. Having spent the majority of my playing career at the club everyone will know that the club has always been special to me and there are many great moments which I will always cherish. I or any of the present squad of players does not disregard the history of the club and we are more than aware of the responsibility we carry everytime we play.

At present this team is trying to create its own piece of history by trying to win back to back Championships. It would be a great way to celebrate the clubs 40th year in existence and would confirm that it does not rest on its achievements but is constantly striving for more success. I am very proud to be captain of the club on such a special day and look forward over the next few weeks to try once again to take the club to the pinnacle of our sport.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF VICTORIA

Congratulations to the South Melbourne Soccer Club on the celebration of its 40th birthday.

South Melbourne Soccer Club is synonymous with Australian soccer. It is a club that is at the forefront of the domestic game because of its large and passionate supporter base.

As South Melbourne Soccer Club's number one ticket holder, it gave me great joy to see the team win last season's Ericsson Cup grand final. I am confident that coach Ange Postecoglou will have his players primed for back-to-back championships this season.

In South Melbourne Soccer Club's long history, the club has won every major trophy available in Australian soccer, including three national championships. The Club has been home to many of the game's finest champions who have represented Australia with distinction. It has also produced many players who have gone on to successful careers in Europe.

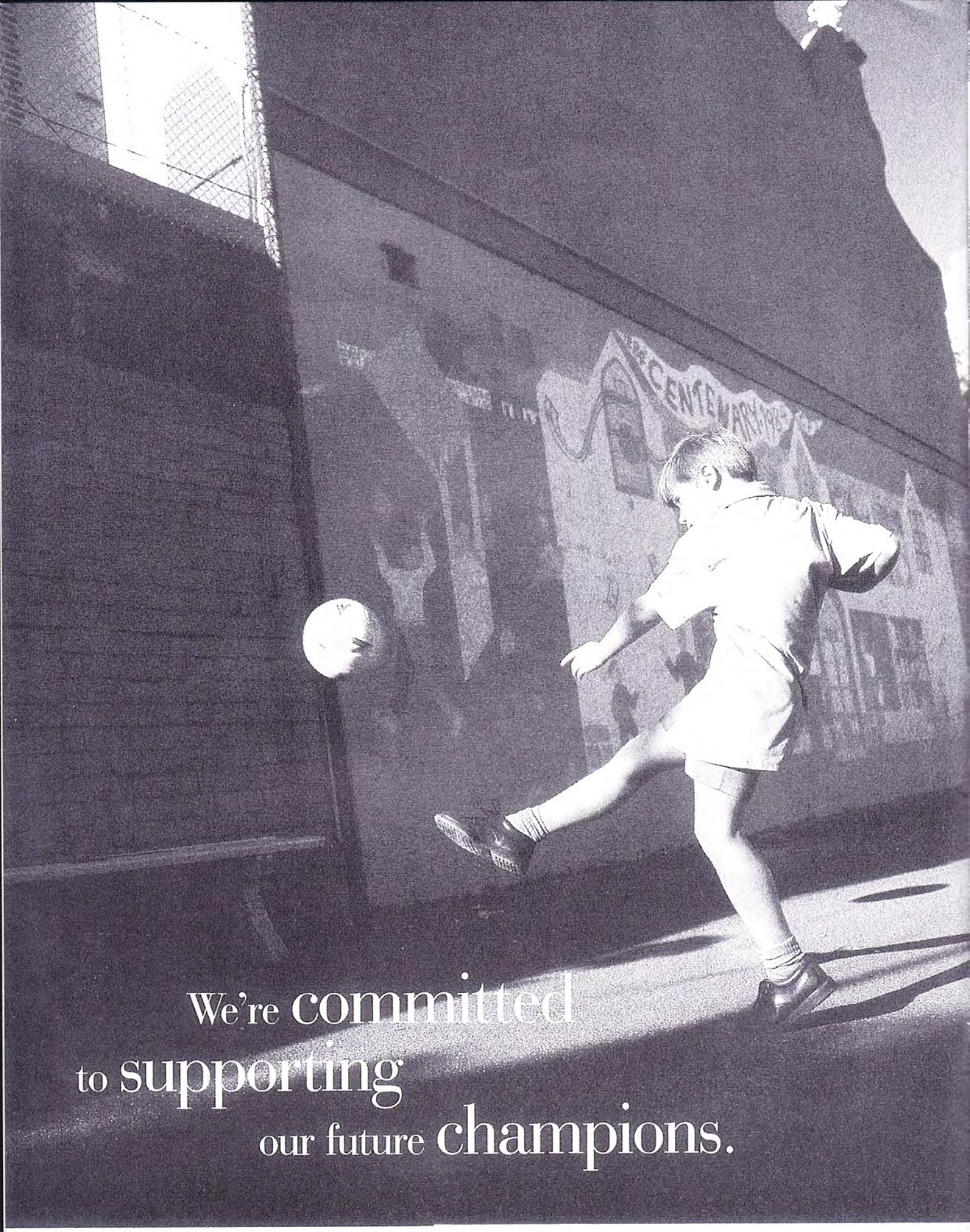
South Melbourne Soccer Club must now plan towards its next 40 years and strive for continued success. It has one of the best Australian soccer stadiums and excellent young players from which it can build on for the future.

The new millennium is going to pose major challenges for soccer in Australia if the game is going to take the big strides it has promised to take. As one of the founding national league clubs and one with such a proud history of success, South Melbourne Soccer Club must play a leading role in helping the game grow.

Tremendous credit should be given to all those involved in helping this famous Club achieve this major milestone.

I wish South Melbourne Soccer Club all the best in its game today against Canberra and, more importantly, in the finals series where it will defend its championship.

Jeff Kennett



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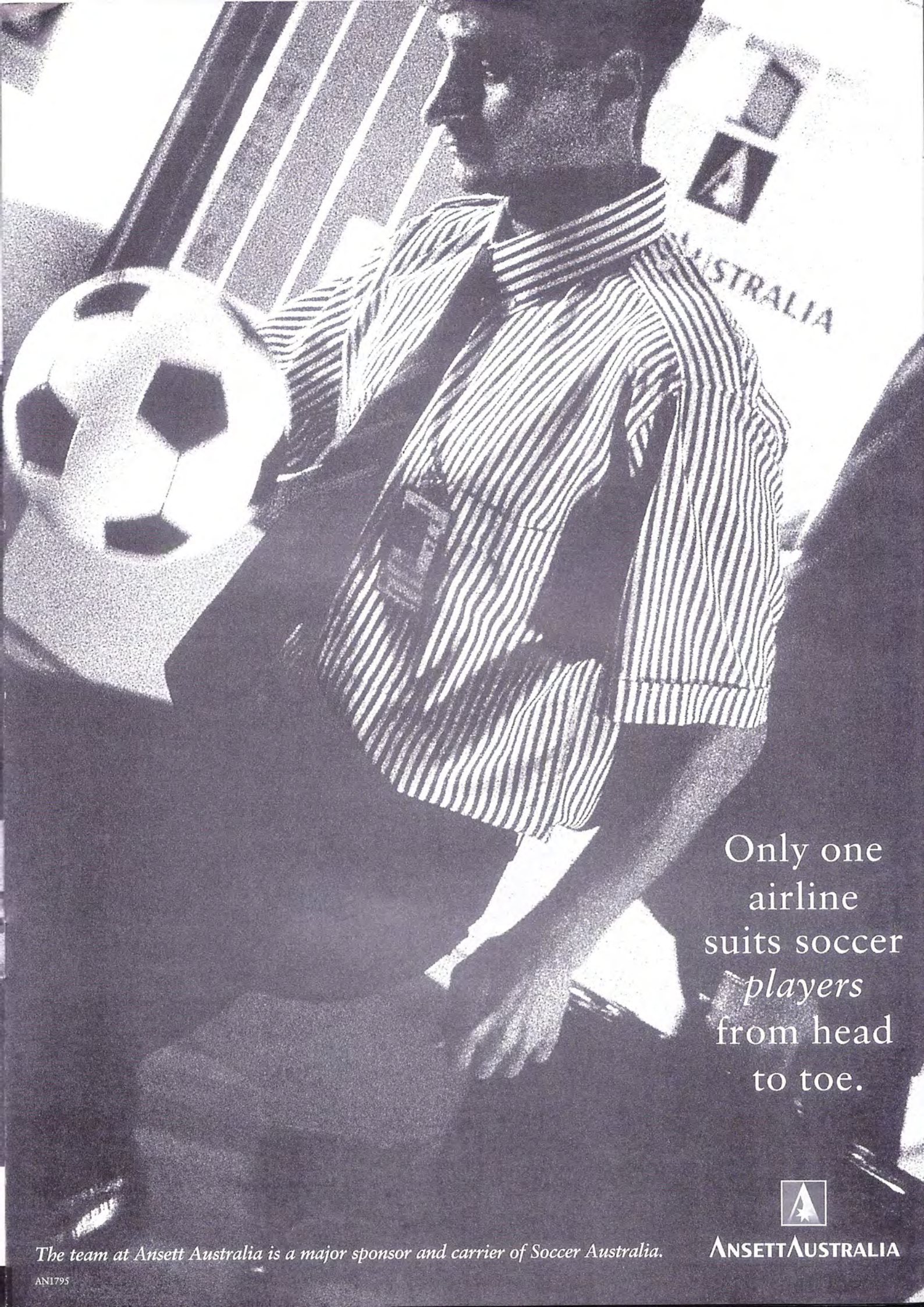
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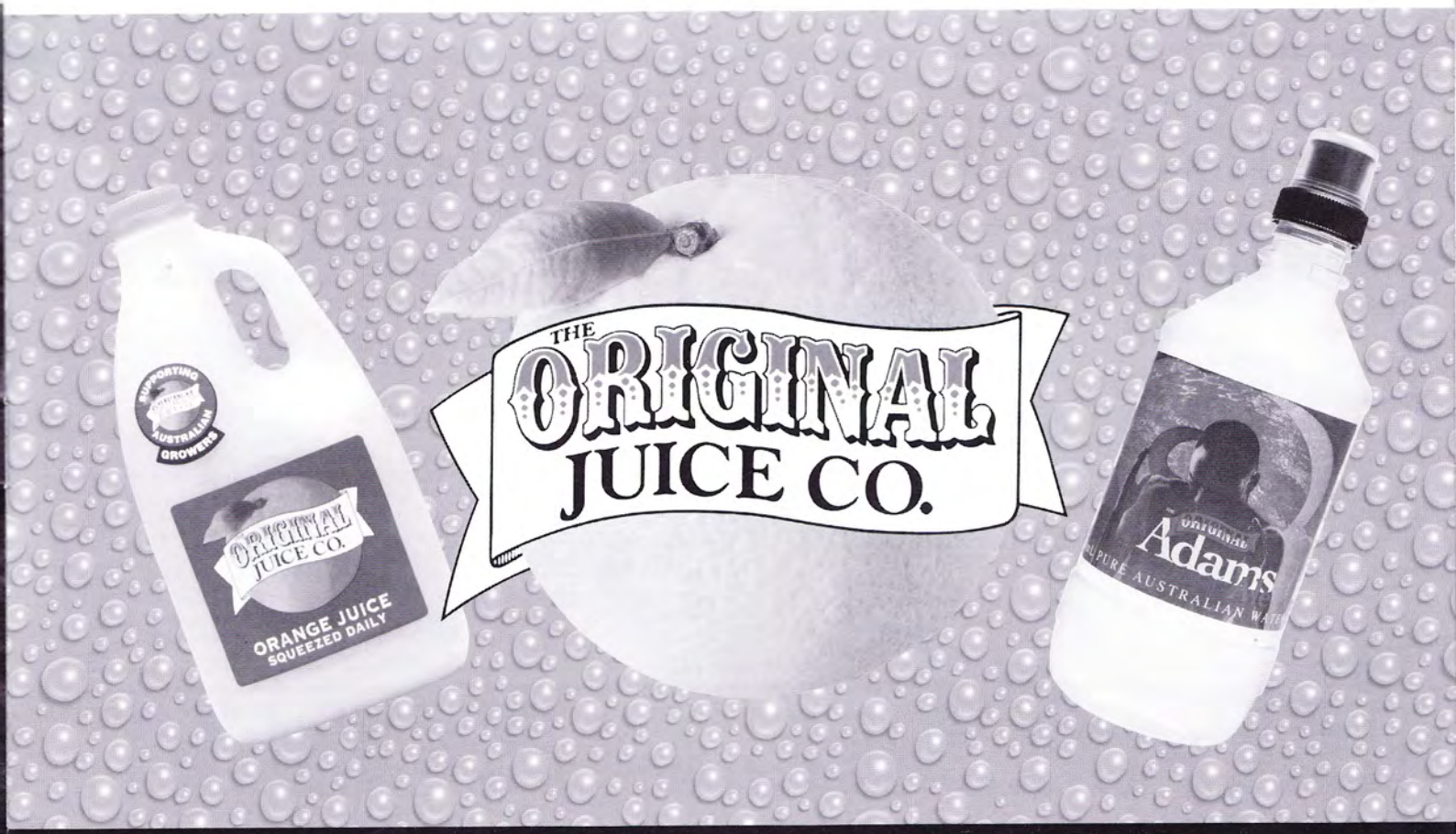

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RND	DATE	DAY	GAME	H/A	TIME
1	11 Oct	Sun	Gippsland Falcons	H	5PM
2	18 Oct	Sun	Adelaide Sharks	A	8PM
3	25 Oct	Sun	Newcastle Breakers	H	6PM
4	31 Oct	Sat	Marconi Fairfield	A	7PM
5	8 Nov	Sun	Sydney Olympic	H	6PM
6	15 Nov	Sun	Perth Glory	A	5PM
7	22 Nov	Sun	Carlton	H	5PM
8	29 Nov	Sun	Melbourne Knights	A	3PM
9	6 Dec	Sun	Wollongong Wolves	H	6PM
10	13 Dec	Sun	Adelaide City	A	7PM
11	20 Dec	Sun	Northern Spirit	H	6PM
12	27 Dec	Sun	Brisbane Strikers	A	7PM
13	3 Jan	Sun	Sydney United	H	6PM
14	11 Jan	Mon	Canberra Cosmos	A	7PM
23	TBA		Perth Glory	TBA	
15	**17 Jan**	**Sun**	**BYE**	-	-

RND	DATE	DAY	GAME	H/A	TIME
16	23 Jan	Sat	Gippsland Falcons	A	7PM
17	26 Jan	Tue	Adelaide Sharks	H	6PM
18	31 Jan	Sun	Wollongong Wolves	A	6.30PM
19	7 Feb	Sun	Melbourne Knights	H	6PM
20	12 Feb	Fri	Newcastle Breakers	A	8PM
21	21 Feb	Sun	Marconi Fairfield	H	6PM
22	28 Feb	Sun	Sydney Olympic	A	6PM
23	**7 Mar**	**Sun**	**GRAND PRIX WEEKEND**		
24	14 Mar	Sun	Carlton	A	5PM
25	21 Mar	Sun	Adelaide City	H	6PM
26	26 Mar	Fri	Northern Spirit	A	7.30PM
27	4 Apr	Sun	Brisbane Strikers	H	6PM
28	11 Apr	Sun	Sydney United	A	5PM
29	18 Apr	Sun	Canberra Cosmos	H	6PM
30	**25 Apr**	**Sun**	**BYE**	-	-

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1 Michael PETKOVIC (GLK)	.....
2 Steve IOSIFIDIS (DEF)	.....
3 Fausto DE AMICIS (DEF)	.....
4 Nick ORLIC (DEF)	.....
5 Con BLATSIS (DEF)	.....
6 David CLARKSON (MID)	.....
7 Steve PANOPOULOS (MID)	.....
8 Vaughan COVENY (MID)	.....
9 Paul TRIMBOLI (STK)	.....
10 Michael CURCIJA (STK)	.....
11 John ANASTASIADIS (STK)	.....
12 Tansel BASER (DEF)	.....
13 Adrian CUZZUPE (MID)	.....
14 Jason POLAK (MID)	.....
15 Goran LOZANOVSKI (MID)	.....
16 George GOUTZIOULIS (MID)	.....
17 Jim TSEKINIS (STK)	.....
18 Robert LIPAROTI (DEF)	.....
20 Chris Jones (GLK)	.....
22 Mustafa MUSTAFA (STK)	.....

CANBERRA COSMOS

	GOALS
1 Vilson KNEZEVIC	.....
2 Harry JAMES	.....
3 Toplica POPOVICH	.....
4 Dany BURT	.....
5 Lindsay WILSON	.....
6 Ivan ZELIC	.....
7 Doug MARCINA	.....
8 Anthony MAGNACCA	.....
10 Peter BULJAN	.....
11 David ARRANZ	.....
12 Leo LANGONE	.....
13 Andrew CLARK	.....
14 Amarildo MIGLIETTI	.....
16 Ilija PREZNOSKI	.....
17 Michael MUSITANO	.....
18 Norman KELLY	.....
20 Grant BARLOW	.....
24 Paul ROBERTS	.....
25 Ivo DE JESUS	.....
26 Gabriel GONZALEZ	.....
27 Nicholas PURDUE	.....
28 Gordon HUNTER	.....
31 Dale WINGELL	.....

ERICSSON CUP TABLE & FIXTURES

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SOUTH MELBOURNE	27	16	6	5	49	26	54
SYDNEY UNITED	26	17	3	6	50	32	64
PERTH GLORY	26	15	4	7	56	33	49
NORTHERN SPIRIT	26	14	3	9	35	33	45
ADELAIDE CITY	26	12	6	8	38	25	42
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	26	12	6	8	44	33	42
Marconi Fairfield	26	13	3	10	51	47	42
Newcastle Breakers	26	10	6	10	26	31	36
Brisbane Strikers	26	10	6	10	38	44	36
Carlton SC	27	9	4	14	46	45	31
Wollongong Wolves	26	8	6	12	40	47	30
Adelaide Sharks	26	7	6	13	34	41	27
Melbourne Knights	26	7	5	14	29	39	26
Gippsland Falcons	26	5	8	13	17	44	23
Canberra Cosmos	26	4	2	20	21	54	14

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PAUL TRIMBOLI
Position: Striker
Born: 25.2.69
Height: 173cm
Weight: 72kg
NSL games: 318
Last Club: Sunshine GC
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Trimmers
Shirt Number: **9**

STEVE PANOPOULOS
Position: Midfielder
Born: 23.6.75
Height: 169cm
Weight: 68kg
NSL games: 108
Last Club: (Oakleigh) VIS
Internationals:
Nickname: Pana
Shirt Number: **7**

ROBERT LIPAROTI
Position: Defender
Born: 2.04.78
Height: 193cm
Weight: 89kg
NSL games: 8
Last Club: Bulleen
Internationals:
Nickname: Lipa
Shirt Number: **18**

GORAN LOZANOVSKI
Position: Midfielder
Born: 11.01.74
Height: 180cm
Weight: 88kg
NSL games: 143
Last Club: Collingwood
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Loza
Shirt Number: **15**

NICK ORLIC
Position: Defender
Born: 06.08.70
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 90kg
NSL game 121
Last Club: UTS Olympic
Internationals:
Nickname: Niko
Shirt Number: **4**

JIM TSEKINIS
Position: Striker
Born: 08.05.75
Height: 177cm
Weight: 77kg
NSL games:
Last Club: Adelaide Sharks
Internationals: Young Socceroo
Nickname:
Shirt Number: **17**

MICHAEL PETKOVIC
Position: Goalkeeper
Born: 16.07.76
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 80kg
NSL games 74
Last Club: Perth Kangaroos
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Petka
Shirt Number: **1**

JOHN ANASTASIADIS
Position: Striker
Born: 13.08.68
Height: 179cm
Weight: 78kg
NSL games: 49
Last Club: PAOK (Greece)
Internationals: Young Socceroo
Nickname:
Shirt Number: **11**

FAUSTO DE AMICIS
Position: Defender
Born: 26.06.68
Height: 170cm
Weight: 65kg
NSL games: 171
Last Club: Melbourne Knights
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: **3**

MICHAEL CURCIJA
Position: Striker
Born: 27.06.77
Height: 183cm
Weight: 80kg
NSL games: 62
Last Club: AIS
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: Cij
Shirt Number: **10**

CON BLATSIS
Position: Defender
Born: 06.07.77
Height: 192cm
Weight: 86kg
NSL games: 65
Last Club: AIS
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: Blats
Shirt Number: **5**

ADRIAN CUZZUPE
Position: Midfielder
Born: 06.08.80
Height: 178cm
Weight: 72kg
NSL games:
Last Club: Green Gully
Internationals:
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: **13**

VAUGHAN COVENY
Position: Striker
Born: 13.12.71
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 84kg
NSL games: 149
Last Club: Wollongong
Internationals: New Zealand
Nickname: Kiwi
Shirt Number: **8**

GEORGE GOUTZIOULIS
Position: Midfielder
Born: 18.01.78
Height: 180cm
Weight: 74kg
NSL game 18
Last Club: Bentleigh Greens
Internationals: -
Nickname: Shaggy
Shirt Number: **16**

STEVE IOSIFIDIS
Position: Defender
Born: 28.12.73
Height: 184cm
Weight: 75kg
NSL games: 60
Last Club: Heidelberg UTD
Internationals:
Nickname: Yosa
Shirt Number: **2**

JASON POLAK
Position: Midfielder
Born: 09.01.68
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 80kg
NSL games: 188
Last Club: Brisbane
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Jay
Shirt Number: **14**

DAVID CLARKSON
Position: Midfielder
Born: 01.02.68
Height: 176cm
Weight: 70kg
NSL games: 138
Last Club: Happy Valley (HK)
Internationals:
Nickname: Clarky
Shirt Number: **6**

TANSEL BASER
Position: Defender
Born: 17.04.78
Height: 190cm
Weight: 75kg
NSL games: 50
Last Club: Broadmeadows
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: **12**

MUSTAFA MUSTAFA
Position: Striker
Born: 22.08.79
Height: 178cm
Weight: 69kg
NSL games: -
Last Club: VIS (Melton Reds)
Internationals: -
Nickname: Mus
Shirt Number: **22**

CHRIS JONES
Position: Goalkeeper
Born: 10.07.75
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 88kg
NSL games: 1
Last Club: Karingal United
Internationals: -
Nickname: Jonesy
Shirt Number: **20**

COACHING STAFF 1998/99

ANGE POSTECOGLOU
Manager/Coach

CARL HALFORD
Assistant Coach

LEANDRO ZARKO
Assistant Coach

Sexy balls. Sexy soccer

The Future
Michael Curcija

Michael Curcija epitomises the future of South Melbourne, writes Giorgios Hatzimanolis.

Leading the South Melbourne attack can be a lot to expect from a 22-year-old, and the pressures which arrive from such expectations can cause problems for even the most experienced of players.

For Michael Curcija, though, the task of leading the number one team in the country can only be seen as a positive thing. *"It is a great feeling playing for South Melbourne. We are all a very closely-knit unit and we thoroughly enjoy playing together,"* Curcija says.

This season has been a kind one to Curcija, but it is through hard work and determination that he has managed to establish himself as a regular in Ange Postecoglou's starting line-up. Curcija has pitched in with 11 goals, while his attacking partnership with Vaughan Coveny has seen the duo score almost half of the South Melbourne goals this season. *"Vaughan and I are really enjoying our football this season,"* Curcija says. *"We are great team mates on the park and great friends off it. We really enjoy playing together."*

Michael Curcija has no doubt scored some vital goals this season, but is the Olyroo striker happy the team plays a different brand of football compared to last season. *"South appears to be more conservative in its approach, content with winning matches than delivering constant, all-out attacks. Ange Postecoglou has not asked us to play any differently to last season,"* Curcija says.
"We don't see our approach as a defensive one - we just want to win matches. Ange is a great coach who knows what he wants from his players. I mean, people do not realise how much more difficult it is for us this season. Everyone is against us, when we play away, things can get very hard. Every team wants to beat us, not only because we are champions but because we are South Melbourne."
The striker believes the team would have fared better if it had not been marred by a stream of injuries and suspensions. Even so, he ranks the team highly.
"We have a great team here at South Melbourne," he says.
"We all play well together. There is no doubt in my mind that we can win the championship once more this season.' On the eve of the play-offs the Olyroo seems optimistic about his team's chances for a successive title, but he does have one thing to ask of South Melbourne's passionate supporters. *"We need our supporters to get behind us during the finals,"* he says. *"We really need them to give us that extra boost."* That really is no big ask. It is, after all, what South Melbourne supporters have been successfully doing for 40 years.

HOW THE ERICSSON CUP FINAL SERIES WORKS

The Ericsson Cup Finals Series operates over a 5 week period involving the Top 6 Ericsson Cup clubs at the conclusion of the Home and Away season. The first two encounters between teams in the Ericsson Cup Finals Series are considered a "Home &Away" configuration where the aggrgate winner of the two matches proceeds to the next stage.

WEEK 1 — ***May 1/2***

3rd V 6th	Elimination Final 1st Leg
4th V 5th	Elimination Final 1st Leg - i.e. Two games, with no teams eliminated.

WEEK 2 — ***May 8/9***

3rd V 6th	Elimination Final 2nd Leg
4th V 5th	Elimination Final 2nd Leg
1st V 2nd	Major Semi-Final 1st Leg - i.e. Three games, with two teams eliminated.

WEEK 3 — ***May 15/16***

Winner 3rd & 6th V Winner 4th & 5th		***- Minor Semi - Final***
1st V 2nd	Major Semi - Final 2nd Leg i.e. Two games, with one team eliminated.	***- Aggregate winner straight to Grand final***

WEEK 4 — ***May 22/23***

Winner Minor semi - Final V Loser Major Semi - Final — ***- Preliminary Final***
i.e. One games, with one team eliminated.

WEEK 5 — ***May 29/30***

Winner Major semi - Final V Winner Preliminary Final - ***Grand Final***
i.e. One game, with one team eliminated. ***The winner declared champions of Australia.***

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